

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Shell S. Simpson et al.

Serial No.: 10/001,721

Filed: October 30, 2001

Docket No.: 10007661-1

Title: WEB-BASED IMAGING SERVICE PROVIDING RESERVATION

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed March 3, 2006, in which claims 1-14 were rejected.

With this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 12, and 13 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claims 1-14 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,045 to Teng et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0208607 to Yamazaki.

Claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,045 to Teng et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0208607 to Yamazaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,170 to Ban.

Claims 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,045 to Teng et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0208607 Yamazaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,573,910 to Duke et al.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,045 to Teng et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0208607 Yamazaki further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,573,910 Duke et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,692 to Fan et al.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,045 to Teng et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0208607 to Yamazaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,692 to Fan et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 1 recites, amongst other things, that "if processing of a second processing job is requested during a time period including any remaining portion of the deferral period and the estimated processing time of the first processing job," the method includes "providing an option of reserving a second deferred start time for deferred processing of the second processing job, the second deferred start time occurring after an estimated completion time for deferred processing of said first processing job."

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Independent claim 11 recites, amongst other things, that "if processing of second imaging information using said production device is requested and processing of said second imaging information cannot be completed prior to the first deferred start time," the destination service is operable to "provide an option of reserving a second deferred start time for deferred processing of said second imaging information, the second deferred start time occurring after an estimated completion time for deferred processing of said first imaging information."

With respect to the Teng et al., Yamazaki, Ban, Duke et al., and Fan et al. patents, Applicant submits that none of these patents, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a method of relieving competition between processing jobs sharing a production device as claimed in independent claim 1, nor a destination service representing a production device as claimed in independent claim 11. For example, the Yamazaki patent discloses an information processing method for reserving a printer wherein if a new print-related job is present, one embodiment of the processing method provides that when it is judged that the job is a job of a party other than the reserver, or when it is judged that the job cannot be completed before a reserved time, the CPU 12 "rejects the acceptance of the job" and "cancels the rejected job" (see Figs. 3-4; para. [0094]-[0095]). Another embodiment of the processing method of the Yamazaki patent provides that a job of a party other than a reserver can be processed even in a reserved time zone "unless a job of the reserver is processed" (para. [0099]). The Yamazaki patent, therefore, provides either for canceling all jobs from other users or for preferentially processing a reserved user's job when a new print-related job is present. The Yamazaki patent, however, does not provide an option of reserving a second deferred start time for deferred processing of a second processing job, with the second deferred start time occurring after an estimated completion time for deferred processing of a first processing job.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 11 are each patentably distinct from the Teng et al., Yamazaki, Ban, Duke et al., and Fan et al. patents and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-10 further define patentably distinct claim 1, and dependent claims 12-14 further define patentably distinct claim 11, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections of

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claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-14 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-14 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Nathan Rieth at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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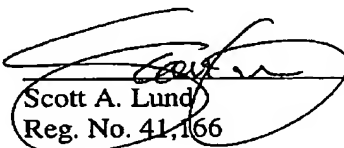
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 4th day of May, 2006.

By 
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